

ART. IV.—*Proposed publication of Plates of Hindu Architectural Remains.*

To the Secretary of the Asiatic Society.

SIR,—In the sixth volume of the Journal of the Asiatic Society, page 453, in an article from the able pen of our late Secretary, touching the sculpture at *Sanchi* near *Bhilsa*, he expresses his opinion that it would be of advantage to publish a series of Hindu Architectural Remains,* and I am aware wished to introduce the subject in the Journal, but the difficulty and expense attending the preparation of plates, requiring even little labor, prevented his doing so. Latterly, at his request, I prepared several lithographs representing different pieces of sculpture which I collected during my different tours in Orissa; having many more in my portfolio which might prove interesting to some of your readers, I propose (should you be of this opinion, and it meet with your approval) to publish occasionally one or two plates, with such explanatory notes as I may be able to give.†

In the present number I have given a drawing of an elegant piece of sculpture which I copied at Badeswur, in the valley of the Mahanuddi, and which I have alluded to at page 370.

This image represents the goddess DURGA as PARVATTI', wife of MAHADEVA (SIVA), and daughter of the Hymalya mountain in the *Parvatti Avatar*.

The figure, though mutilated, shews that the different emblems named were originally present. In one of her right hands she holds the *Nag-phans*, or serpent noose; the other (which is broken off) she holds up in assurance of no evil intention, it is called अभय "*a-bhai*," which means "without fear," or "fear not;" in one of her left hands was the *Unkoos* (elephant goad), part of the staff of which still remains on the arch; in her second she held the *Pudma*, or lotus, by the stem, part of which is destroyed;—I speak positively on this head, having seen many images of the same form in which the different parts wanting in this example were present excepting the *a-bhai*.

This deity is (like most others) presented as standing on an expanded lotus, with the *Singha*, or lion, and the *Vahun*, or vehicle of SIVA, at her feet.

* "It would be well worthy of the Asiatic Society to publish from time to time in England a volume of Hindu Architectural Remains from the materials in its possession; to this reference could always be made, and those who regarded only the works of Art, would find a volume to their taste, kept distinct (like the Physical Volume,) from the graver subjects of the Society's Researches."

† We most gratefully accept Lieut. Kittoe's proposal.—EDS.

